



AIANEA Interim National Council Minutes

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

1:00 pm Pacific, 2:00 pm Mountain, 3:00 pm Central, 4:00 pm Eastern

Respect, Harmony and Beauty

Interim Council Present: **President** - Roylene Comes at Night (absent)
1st Vice President – Kristi Harper (absent)
2nd Vice President – Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen
Treasurer – Sherry Cosper
SE Regional Rep – Cameron Clark
NE Regional Rep - Cassius Spears (absent)
W Regional Rep – Felix Nez (absent)
Northern Plains Rep – David Pesicka
Midwest Regional Rep – Blythe Koyiyumptewa
Secretary - Catherine Cannon

The meeting was called to order by 2nd Vice President Tanya Mayer-Dideriksen at 1:02.

- 1) **Welcome.** No additions or changes to minutes or agenda. David moved to accept the minutes, Blythe seconded. Passed.
- 2) **Guest Speaker, Andy Pham, FPAC Management Analyst and National AIAN & AAPI Special Emphasis Program Manager.** Andy introduced himself and highlighted what he is working on and upcoming events.
 - Native American Heritage Month (November):
 - Theme is *Three Sisters of Indigenous American Agriculture*, theme was adopted by USDA & Office of Tribal Relations.
 - Poster contest concluded and new poster should be released soon.
 - November 15 will have event hosted by Choogie Kingfisher, a Cherokee storyteller. More information to come.
 - November 7 – 25 will combine Veterans Day & AIAN Heritage month; film *The Warrior Tradition* will be available for viewing. More information to come.
 - Focus of FY23 will be analyzing workforce data and conducting barrier analysis.
 - Will be attending IAC conference in December.
 - Working with Chris Borden (acting National Tribal Liaison), brainstorming how to improve engagement of NRCS AIAN employees in assisting tribal nations/governments.

- Ultimate goal is to create an unconscious bias/microaggression/working effectively training.

Opened for questions:

- Blythe discussed a July presentation to RMA by the Working Effectively cadre and a break-out session discussing government to government relations. She was glad to hear FPAC is working on improved engagement and relationships.
 - Tanya offered AIANEA's help in any way.
- 3) **Treasurer's Report:** No changes to accounts. *Post meeting review and update: Payment to IRS for EIN reinstatement. Accountant was paid remaining balance. See Financial Minutes for specifics (not public).*
 - 4) Tanya provided update from Roylene on taxes. Still waiting for EIN reinstatement from IRS, so 2021 taxes cannot be filed yet.
 - 5) **Welcome Committee Update:** Council decided to wait until more members are together to make decision on what to purchase. Still have questions about "set up" fees – one time or every time. David will follow up.
 - 6) **State of AIANEA Letter:** Roylene completed and was going to send to Yvette past Monday (10/17) to get out to membership. Haven't seen it distributed yet.
 - 7) **Tribal Scholars Program:** Roylene sent email to STCs, no responses. Work in progress.
 - 8) **ERG President's Update:**
 - No update on webpage proposal.
 - Kahoot proposal: WiN is taking lead on all ERGs sharing resources to purchase Kahoot account. AIANEA's cost will be \$70.80, probably annually. NOPBNRCSE opted out. Determined Sherry will be POC for WiN (Anne Pollock) and will pay via PayPal. Tanya will send Sherry relevant information.
 - 9) **Listening Circle Partnership Committee Proposal:** Revisited what the was – to have committee to improve communication and partnership with Listening Circle cadre. David will follow up. Discussed that information about Listening Circles is no longer being sent out to folks, what avenues are being utilized? Do see listing on upcoming Circles in FPAC newsletter sometimes. Communication to NRCS staff needs improvement.
 - 10) Discussed next meeting – November 1 will not work as Roylene, Tanya, and Cathy will all be absent. Tanya will update Roylene.

- 11) **C&B Updates:** After State of AIANEA letter goes out to membership, Tanya will send first section of C&B for 30-day membership review. Tanya will send next section to Council before next meeting to be prepared to make decisions
- 12) Next meeting November 16.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53

13) **Action Items:**

- State of AIANEA* letter sent to membership.
- Roylene will continue to pursue STCs re: Tribal Scholarship Program.
- David to follow up and clarify “set up fees” for welcome package items.
- Sherry to work with WiN to purchase Kahoot account.
- David to follow up with Listening Circle cadre about partnership.
- Tanya to send out 1st section of C&B for membership review.
- Tanya to send out 2nd section of C&B to Council for pre-meeting review.
- Watch for EIN reinstatement.
- Reminder for All – Send Tanya picture and brief intro for Facebook page
- Topic on Hold: Hiring Ron to conduct audit.*